



Part 2: Living in The Low

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Grant Fishbook, Lead Teaching Pastor

The Low Moments of Joseph's Life

Favoritism

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him. – Genesis 37:3-4

Pride and Oversharing

Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.” – Genesis 37:5-7

Abandonment

(Whole story: Genesis 37:12-36) So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt. – Genesis 37:28

False Accusation

(Whole story: Genesis 39:1-19) Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. – Genesis 39:20

Bondage and Imprisonment

(Whole story: Genesis 39:19 – Genesis 41) But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. Genesis 39:20-21

Stuff to do in a low moment:

Whine, complain and sulk

Find a way out

Plot revenge on anyone who put you in a pit

Get angry with the God who made the pit

Better stuff to do in a low moment:

Lament (John 16:20)

Be honest (Psalm 51:3-4)

Be still (Psalm 46:10)

Be open to God's presence (Psalm 139:8 and 23:4)

The Low Moments of Joseph's Life, continued

Revenge

(Whole story: Genesis 42) Now Joseph was the governor of the land, the person who sold grain to all its people. So when Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. - Genesis 42:7

When you are low, go lower.

Forgiveness

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. - Genesis 50:19-20

Life's lowest moments create the greatest opportunity to see Jesus as the source of all hope.

Next Steps

Easter is just two weekends away! If you're in a low moment of life right now, reaching out to someone who needs God's hope might be part of his plan to encourage and lift you up. Be praying about who you could invite to an Easter service, and make sure to follow through. Invitations are available in the Commons.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What are your plans for Easter?
- 2) Do you feel that your parent(s) played favorites? How did that affect you?
- 3) Which low moments Joseph's story are familiar to you? How have you found God in the low moments?
- 4) It's easy to put ourselves in the place of God. Where are you playing God right now and what is your plan to step aside?
- 5) Do you have any unfinished business in the realm of forgiveness? Who? Why? When will you forgive as God forgave you?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?